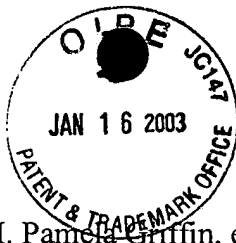


00115-07



PATENT

APPLICANT: M. Pamela Griffin, et al.

ART UNIT: 3762

SERIAL NO. 09/770,653

EXAMINER: Frances P. Oropeza

FILED: January 29, 2001

CUSTOMER NO.: 34444

TITLE: Method and Apparatus for the Early Diagnosis of Subacute, Potentially Catastrophic Illness

14/E
B. Webb
1/24/03

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Date: January 16, 2003

Sue Ann Carr

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In response to the final Office Action dated September 16, 2002, having a three (3) month shortened statutory period set to expire December 16, 2002, Applicants respectfully request a one-month extension of time up to and including January 16, 2003. Please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 68 as follows:

68. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 39, wherein the at least one characteristic abnormal pattern or distribution is identified from a data set of RR intervals.

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

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